

House Bill 291 by Representative John (Jack) W Ross  
A bill to exempt commercial AG grinders from air quality permit requirements  
House Natural Resources Committee – February 2, 2007  
TESTIMONY OF THE MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Jonathan Matthews. I was elected by the 2200 members of Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club to represent their interests by serving them on the Executive Committee of the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club and by coming to talk to you when legislation affecting our Montana Constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment comes before your consideration. I am a volunteer. I have taken time off work to come talk to you today. Please accept my testimony today on behalf of the 2200 members of the Montana Sierra Club. We oppose HB 291 and we urge the committee to oppose it as well.

The public is calling for a strengthening of air quality standards, not a weakening of them. Weakening air quality standards may be seen as literally unconstitutional in Montana, as it violates our constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment. Exempting any agricultural processing plants from air quality standards is clearly not in the best interest of Montanans. Ethanol plants, malting plants, and other forms of agricultural processing plants can be sources of particulate and gaseous pollution, if left unregulated. Commercial agricultural grinders can emit dangerous levels of particulate pollution, if they are not required to regulate them. The health effects of particulate matter vary depending on the size of the particles. Larger particles can cause asthma and bronchitis, and smaller particles can be absorbed through the lungs into the blood stream, producing systemic illness and cardiac and vascular problems. The health effects of gaseous pollution vary according to the chemical composition of the gas released into the air. Clearly, Montanans, proud of their clear and clean Big Sky, do not want their elected representatives weakening the reasonable oversight that keeps their air clean.

We urge this committee to oppose the passage of HB 291.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to the committee. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Jonathan Matthews  
Executive Committee  
Montana Chapter, Sierra Club

1601 N. Benton Ave.  
Helena, MT 59625  
[jmatthews@carroll.edu](mailto:jmatthews@carroll.edu)  
447-4351

**House Bill 291 by Representative John (Jack) W Ross**  
**A bill to exempt commercial AG grinders from air quality permit requirements**  
**House Natural Resources Committee – February 2, 2007**  
**TESTIMONY OF THE MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Jonathan Matthews. I was elected by the 2200 members of Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club to represent their interests by serving them on the Executive Committee of the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club and by coming to talk to you when legislation affecting our Montana Constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment comes before your consideration. I am a volunteer. I have taken time off work to come talk to you today. Please accept my testimony today on behalf of the 2200 members of the Montana Sierra Club. We oppose HB 291 and we urge the committee to oppose it as well.

The public is calling for a strengthening of air quality standards, not a weakening of them. Weakening air quality standards may be seen as literally unconstitutional in Montana, as it violates our constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment. Exempting any agricultural processing plants from air quality standards is clearly not in the best interest of Montanans. Ethanol plants, malting plants, and other forms of agricultural processing plants can be sources of particulate and gaseous pollution, if left unregulated. Commercial agricultural grinders can emit dangerous levels of particulate pollution, if they are not required to regulate them. The health effects of particulate matter vary depending on the size of the particles. Larger particles can cause asthma and bronchitis, and smaller particles can be absorbed through the lungs into the blood stream, producing systemic illness and cardiac and vascular problems. The health effects of gaseous pollution vary according to the chemical composition of the gas released into the air. Clearly, Montanans, proud of their clear and clean Big Sky, do not want their elected representatives weakening the reasonable oversight that keeps their air clean.

We urge this committee to oppose the passage of HB 291.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to the committee. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Jonathan Matthews  
Executive Committee  
Montana Chapter, Sierra Club

1601 N. Benton Ave.  
Helena, MT 59625  
[jmatthews@carroll.edu](mailto:jmatthews@carroll.edu)  
447-4351

